11. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a human CETP.

12. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a rabbit CETP.

13. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP differs from the native CETP of said mammal.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to cover a preferred embodiment of the invention. Specifically, Applicants have amended Claim 1 and, thereby, claims depending therefrom to cover a method of inducing an immune response to increase HDL cholesterol levels in a mammal exhibiting or at risk of exhibiting low levels of serum HDL cholesterol comprising administering to the mammal an immunogenic composition comprising a full-length cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP). Support for the amendment is found in the specification (see, e.g., p. 2, line 30, and p. 3, line 29-p. 4, line17, of the specification). Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

Since the claims of this application are now directed to methods comprising use of a full-length CETP, Applicants have canceled Claim 3, which recites use of a "peptide". According to the specification, a "CETP peptide" comprises full-length CETP (see, p. 2, lines 29-33 of the specification). However, independent Claim 1, as amended herein, specifically recites the use of a full-length CETP. Applicants have also canceled Claim 4, which recites use of a composition containing a B cell epitope. However, a full-length CETP as recited in independent Claim 1 is the source of B cell epitopes of the composition employed in the claimed method. Accordingly, the cancellation of Claims 3 and 4 eliminates superfluous or redundant claiming from the application and adds no new matter.

Claims 2 and 5 have also been amended to specifically recite "full-length CETP" to maintain consistent use of terms throughout the claims. Accordingly, the amendments add no new matter.

Claim 5 has also been amended to specifically recite use of a full-length CETP comprising any one of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-3, each of which comprises a B cell epitope of a full-length CETP. Support for the amendment is found in original Claim 5 and the specification (see, e.g., p. 5, lines 24-p. 6, line 11 of the specification). Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

Applicants have amended Claim 7 to recite the full term 'keyhole limpet hemocyanin" along with its abbreviation "(KLH)" (see, e.g., p. 4, line 32 of the specification) and to correctly depend from Claim 6, which covers the embodiment of the invention comprising the use of a carrier (see, e.g., p. 4, line 28-p.5, lines 4 of the specification). Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct claim dependencies consistent with the teaching in the specification that an adjuvant may be employed in the methods of the invention (see, e.g., p. 3, lines 1-2, and p. 5, lines 4-9, of the specification). Accordingly, the amendment adds no new matter.

Additionally, Applicants have introduced new Claims 10-13 to specifically recite embodiments of the claimed method of the invention comprising use of a full-length CETP, wherein the CETP may be: the native CETP of the mammal (Claim 10), a human CETP (Claim 11), a rabbit CETP (Claim 12), or a CETP that differs from the native CETP of the mammal (claim 13). Support for new Claims 10-13 is found in the specification (see, e.g., p. 2, line 27-p. 3, line 2, and p. 4, line 7-p. 5, line 9, of the specification). Accordingly, new claims 10-13 add no new matter.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to methods of increasing HDL cholesterol levels in a candidate mammal by inducing an immune response that inhibits the function of said mammal's endogenous (native) CETP. Administering to said candidate mammal an

immunogenic composition comprising a full-length CETP is one way of generating such an immune response. Therefore, the claims as amended particularly point out and distinctly define the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention in this application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims are now in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of Claims 1, 2, and 5-13, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence, including any papers attached hereto, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

December 18, 2002
date of mailing and signature

Stephanie L. Leicht
Stephanie L. Leicht

Marked-up Version of Amended Claims in U.S. Serial No. 09/523,033
(Additions indicated by underlining; deletions indicateded by ~~strikethrough~~)

1. (amended) A method of inducing ~~stimulating~~ an immune response that increases ~~to increase~~ HDL cholesterol levels in a mammal exhibiting or at risk of exhibiting low levels of serum HDL cholesterol comprising administering to said mammal ~~a~~ an immunogenic composition comprising ~~an immunogenic epitope of CETP~~ a full-length cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP).

2. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is a substantially purified full-length CETP.

5. (amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said full-length CETP comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~peptide is~~:

~~H-~~Cys-Asp-Ala-Gly-Ser-Val-Arg-Thr-Asn-Ala-Pro-Asp~~-OH~~ (SEQ ID NO:2);

~~H-~~Cys-Asp-Ser-Gly-Arg-Val-Arg-Thr-Asp-Ala-Pro-Asp~~-OH~~ (SEQ ID NO:1); and

~~H-~~His-Leu-Leu-Val-Asp-Phe-Leu-Gln-Ser-Leu-Ser~~-OH~~ (SEQ ID NO:3).

7. (amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH), ovalbumin and Diphtheria toxoid.

8. (amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 ~~claim 1~~, wherein said composition is administered with an adjuvant.

10. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein said full-length CETP is the native CETP of said mammal.

11. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a human CETP.

12. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a rabbit CETP.

13. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP differs from the native CETP of said mammal.

Complete Set of Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3)

1. (amended) A method of inducing an immune response that increases HDL cholesterol levels in a mammal exhibiting or at risk of exhibiting low levels of serum HDL cholesterol comprising administering to said mammal an immunogenic composition comprising a full-length cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP).

2. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is a substantially purified full-length CETP.

5. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said full-length CETP comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

   Cys-Asp-Ala-Gly-Ser-Val-Arg-Thr-Asn-Ala-Pro-Asp (SEQ ID NO:2);
   Cys-Asp-Ser-Gly-Arg-Val-Arg-Thr-Asp-Ala-Pro-Asp (SEQ ID NO:1); and
   His-Leu-Leu-Val-Asp-Phe-Leu-Gln-Ser-Leu-Ser (SEQ ID NO:3).

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a carrier.

7. (amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH), ovalbumin and Diphtheria toxoid.

8. (amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7, wherein said composition is administered with an adjuvant.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said administration is repeated.

10. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein said full-length CETP is the native CETP of said mammal.

11. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a human CETP.

12. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP is a rabbit CETP.

13. (new) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein said full-length CETP differs from the native CETP of said mammal.